

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2003. In the Office Action, the Patent Office has asserted the amendment to claim 12 previously filed in Applicants' Amendment dated September 23, 2003 is non-responsive.

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer as previously discussed. Claims 13-17 should be allowable as indicated in the Office Action dated July 18, 2003 and further discussed between the undersigned attorney of record, Mr. Thomas C. Basso, and Examiner Stuart Hendrickson of the United States Patent Office on December 1, 2003 and a follow-up discussion on January 20, 2004.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY



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